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ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN A DEVELOPED SOCIALIST SYSTEM

Moscow VESTNIK MOSKOVSKOGO UNIVERSITETA; SERIYA TEORIYA NAUCHNOGO KOMMUNIZMA
in Russian No 1, Jan-Feb 77 signed to press 21 Mar 77 pp 41-48

[Article by N. S. Rubanov: "The Army's Place in the Political System of a Developed Socialism"]

[Text] The 25th CPSU Congress generalized the work of the construction of a developed socialism and focused a great deal of attention on further development and improvement of the Soviet society's political system, which encompasses a number of interrelated elements. Its guiding nucleus is the Communist Party, which is channeling the activity of all the Soviet people for accomplishment of the task of construction of a communist society. Thanks to the organizing and guiding work of the CPSU, we are achieving a unity of the component parts of the political system of developed socialism and insuring the impact of these components on the whole process of the formation of the communist social and economic structure.

A major role in this system is played by the socialist state--the chief tool in the building of communism and the defense of its achievements. It also embraces the mass public organizations which help the CPSU to implement the communist ideals and to carry on the struggle for the building of communism in our country.

An important role in the political organization of the socialist society is played also by the Soviet Army--the true defender of socialism and peace on earth.

Along with the representative organs of state power and administration, the organs of prosecution, justice and people's control, and other organs, the Soviet Army possesses the attributes of our socialist state. Objectively characterizing the army are those features which are inherent also in the other organs of the Soviet state: they all serve the achievement of the common goal of the building of socialism and communism. In addition, our army occupies a special and specific place in the political system of socialism, one which stems from the fact that it is the military organism of the state.

"The army," wrote F. Engel's, "is an organized association of armed persons maintained by the state for offensive or defensive war."¹ As a special form of organization of armed persons the army evolved at the same time as the division of society into opposing classes with its purpose to serve the interests of the dominant classes. In the state which is divided into opposing classes it articulates and continues to articulate the interests not of all classes but only of the exploiting classes. It is employed by them to carry out a policy of aggrandizement and to suppress the revolutionary movement within its country and beyond its borders. In discussing the military forces of the imperialist states, V. I. Lenin never failed to emphasize that they have "everywhere become the tool of reaction, the servant of capital in the struggle against labor, and the hangman of national freedom."² History has known many instances of the use of the army in capitalist countries for reprisals against the workers who stood up for their political and economic rights. One of the graphic examples bearing witness to the fulfillment of the antinational function of these forces under contemporary conditions is the case of the bloody mission of the British troops in Ulster (Northern Ireland).

The Soviet Army differs in a fundamental way from all the armies of the exploiter states. It is the child of the proletarian revolution and the armed force of the socialist state, serving the interests of all the people of labor and employed for the defense of their revolutionary achievements. As L. I. Brezhnev stated from the rostrum of the 25th CPSU Congress, it "has been nurtured in a spirit of profound devotion to the socialist motherland, the ideals of peace and internationalism, and the ideals of the friendship of nations. It is in this way that the Soviet Army differs from the bourgeois armies. It is for this reason that the Soviet people love their army and take pride in it."³

This social and class character and historical destiny of our army give rise also to its functions and principles and the foundations of its activity. All this defines its place in the political system of society. Specifically, its development and consolidation are dialectically dependent on the development and consolidation of the socialist state. "The experience gained by the Soviet Government in the field of military construction," said V. I. Lenin, "cannot be viewed as isolated experience. The building of our army could only yield successful results because it was developed in the spirit of common Soviet construction and on the basis of the class relationships which are of crucial importance in any construction."⁴

It is especially important to take note of all this now, when the Soviet state, with the full and final victory of socialism, has entered upon a new phase of its development and when the "dictatorship of the proletariat has fulfilled its historic mission and, from the standpoint of the tasks of internal development, has ceased to be a necessity in the USSR. The state which evolved as a state of dictatorship of the proletariat, has become a national state in the new, contemporary stage."⁵ As a result, the Soviet Army too has

undergone changes. Its functions have changed. Thus, as an organ of the state of dictatorship of the proletariat it fulfilled two functions: internal and external. When it became an organ of the national state, the Soviet Army lost its internal function--the function of suppression of the resistance of the deposed exploiter classes, a victory which was confirmed in the following deposition of the CPSU program: "From the standpoint of internal circumstances the Soviet Union is not in need of an army."⁶ And this is quite understandable because in the developed socialist society there are no opposition classes which must be suppressed. There has evolved social, political, moral and ideological unity of all the classes and social strata and all the nations and nationalities; a new historical society has arisen--the Soviet nation "based on an indissoluble union of the working class, the peasantry and the intelligentsia, with the leading role occupied by the working class and the friendship of all the nations and nationalities of the country."⁷ Under these conditions the Soviet Army could not become a national army in the full sense of this word.

The process of this change began with the victory of socialism in our country (beginning in the mid-1930's) and was completed with the building of a developed socialist society. It was this period which saw the transition to the buildup of our army without restriction as to social origin and with a position conforming to the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet USSR in September 1939 on universal military service.⁸ This principle of army buildup was fully vindicated and stood the test of time in the years of the severe trials of the Great Patriotic War. The stability of this principle was reinforced in the new "Law of the USSR on Universal Military Service." This law states that "all male citizens of the USSR, regardless of racial and national affiliation, religion, education, life style, and social and property status are obliged to undergo active military service in the ranks of the USSR armed forces."⁹

We should also take note of such an important feature of our army as its participation in the social and political life of the country. It is a part of the people, living with them by means of common interests and common goals; this is clearly manifested under the conditions of a developed socialism, which is characterized by a high level of maturity of social and class relations. These circumstances generate the most favorable conditions for further consolidation of the unity and solidarity of the army and the people on a common ideological basis--the Marxist-Leninist basis. And the Soviet fighting men, along with all the people, support all the measures of the CPSU and the Soviet state and directly or indirectly take an active part in the implementation of these measures. In particular, they make a great contribution to the construction of important national economy installations. Thus, a not inconsiderable number of them are now among the builders of that national construction project, the Baykal-Amur trunk line. They are giving invaluable aid to the workers of agriculture in the harvesting of the crops and they are also taking part in the political, social, cultural and other measures of the party and state.

In his review report to the 25th CPSU Congress Comrade L. I. Brezhnev took note of the enormous educational role of the Soviet Army. He said: "The young people join the military family without having experienced the school of life. But they come back from the army as people who have gone through the school of self-control and discipline and who have obtained technical and vocational knowledge and political training."¹⁰ Our army is a school of internationalism and a school for inculcation of the feelings of brotherhood, solidarity and mutual respect among all the nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union. Furthering the fulfillment of this role in many respects is the fact that, thanks to the constant solicitude of the CPSU, the army includes ideologically experienced, politically mature and highly educated command personnel, who are skilled teachers of their subordinates. Thus, about 90 percent of the officers of our army and fleet are communists and Komsomol members. More than 90 percent of the positions of regimental commanders and all the positions of ship commanders of the first and second grade are filled by officers with higher military and specialized education.¹¹

Of course, the thing that is preeminent and basic in the activity of our army now, as always, is fulfillment of its direct and external function, the existence of which stems solely from the external and international circumstances of the development of the socialist society. Fulfillment of this function is aimed at the creation of favorable international conditions for the building of communism. We simply cannot ignore the existence of today's world of fairly strong imperialist states which have powerful armed forces and possess enormous rocket and nuclear potential. This potential in the hands of the aggressive imperialist circles poses a genuine threat to the security of our country and all the socialist states and to peace throughout the world. The vigorous foreign policy activity of the CPSU and other fraternal communist and workers' parties has led in recent years to the achievement of substantial success in the struggle for peace and peaceful coexistence of states with diverse social systems and international tension has eased considerably. Nevertheless, the process of physical preparation for war not only has not diminished but is continuing to intensify. As Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized at the October (1976) plenum of CC CPSU, the aggressive circles of the capitalist world are feverishly developing their military preparations. "They are escalating their military budgets, developing new types of armaments, building bases and staging military demonstrations."

This is why the CPSU and the Soviet Government view as most important and urgent the task of strengthening the defensive capacity of the country and all the countries of socialist concord. At the October plenum of CC CPSU Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said that we spend for defense "whatever is necessary for the firm security of the Soviet Union, for joint action by the fraternal countries in defense of the achievements of socialism and for eradication of the potential aggressors' temptation to attempt by force to resolve in their favor the historical conflict between the two opposing social systems. To maintain the armed forces of the country at their current high level so that the Soviet fighting men will always be favored with the most modern weaponry beyond anything the imperialists can cope with--such is our obligation to the people and we will scrupulously fulfill this obligation."¹²

Thus, the role and importance of the external function of the Soviet Army at the contemporary stage not only have not diminished but have been significantly escalated.

What are the factors that produce this continued growth? Mention should first of all be made of the fact that socialism has transcended the boundaries of a single country. What has evolved and is developing successfully is a socialist concord which encompasses the unity and solidarity of the countries which comprise it. As a result of the growth of its power and influence, the alignment of the political forces in the world arena has changed and is steadily continuing to change in favor of socialism. There has also emerged, as a consequence the need for its armed defense against the intrigues of the aggressive circles of imperialism, a defense which is closely bound up with the struggle for achievement of a firm peace. "The achievement of a firm peace," as Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized, "is now not a good intention but a wholly realistic task. To accomplish this task we must continue to work without sparing any effort."¹³ Under today's conditions this task is also accomplished by the communist and workers' parties supported by the combined military might of the Warsaw Pact countries.

Imperialism has been compelled to cope with all this, to adapt to the new alignment of the political forces and to shift from a policy of "cold war" and confrontation to a recognition of the principles of peaceful coexistence with the socialist countries. But at the same time, the most reactionary imperialist circles are everywhere trying to thwart the process of relaxation of international tension by continuing to escalate the production of military equipment and weapons and persistently work to improve the gigantic military machine created by imperialism. They are unwilling to abandon their insane plans for the destruction of the countries of socialism in the holocaust of world missile and nuclear war.

Great importance also attaches to the fact that under the impact of the worldwide historic victories of the USSR and other socialist states the colonial system of imperialism has disintegrated and many countries have gained freedom from colonial dependence, have opted for the noncapitalist path of development and are adhering to the socialist orientation. The antiimperialist struggle of the peoples liberated from colonial dependence is developing into an antifeudal and frequently into an anticapitalist struggle which is generating fierce resistance on the part of imperialism and the internal reactionary forces. Attempting to retain its position in the former colonial world, imperialism is stopping at nothing in its struggle--from the organization of reactionary coups to open export of counterrevolution. And the peoples who are struggling for their national and social freedom are looking to the Soviet Union for all-round support, economic, political and diplomatic as well as military. The 25th CPSU Congress confirmed anew that our party will continue to give them this support in the future. "We are acting in accordance with the dictates of our revolutionary conscience and our communist convictions."¹⁴

And, finally, the growing importance of the Soviet Army's external function has stemmed from the scientific technical revolution and the revolution in military science, advances which are making a decisive impact on the strengthening of the military might of the states in today's world. As we noted above, the weaponry of a number of armies today includes thermonuclear and other mass destruction weapons, the use of which would mean the annihilation of hundreds of millions of people, the transformation of enormous territories into a desert zone and destruction of some of the treasures of world civilization and culture.

Particular peril to the affairs of the world and socialism stems from the aggressive military blocs, the chief of which is the North Atlantic group (NATO).

These factors directly influence the substance of the tasks fulfilled by the Soviet armed forces and the determination of their historical mission, which comprises primarily the defense of our socialist motherland and the peaceful creative labor of the Soviet people.

The CPSU is therefore focusing unremitting attention on the strengthening of the defensive might of the Soviet state and the enhancement of the combat readiness of its armed forces. A new kind of troops was developed--the strategic-purpose rocket troops, which incorporated all the achievements of the scientific-technical revolution and now represent the foundation of the combat might of the Soviet Army. All the branches of the armed forces of the USSR have undergone qualitative changes: the ground forces, the air forces, the navy and the air defense, all of which are ready to repulse the attack of any enemy from wherever it may be launched. "During all these years," said Comrade L. I. Brezhnev at the 25th CPSU Congress, "the party has given due attention to the strengthening of the defensive capability of our country and the improvement of the armed forces. We have improved the supplying of the armed forces with modern weapons and equipment and enhanced the quality of the combat training and ideological preparation of the personnel. In general, the Soviet people can feel confident that the fruits of its creative labor are under reliable protection."¹⁵

The requirements pertaining to the essence of the armed defense of the motherland have changed. It has now become possible to achieve this defense not only through the forces of the national army but also through the combined military forces of the countries of socialist concord. The CPSU sees the defense of this concord as one of the most important responsibilities of the Soviet armed forces. The CPSU program emphasizes the fact that "the Soviet Union considers it to be its international responsibility, along with the other socialist countries, to provide for the dependable protection and security of the entire socialist camp."¹⁶ Graphic evidence of this can be found in the help given to the fraternal Czechoslovakian people in 1968 by the armies of Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Poland and USSR, resulting in the thwarting of the plans of the counterrevolutionary forces and international imperialism in respect to CSSR. This international aid saved the lives of

thousands of people, provided the internal and external conditions for the building of socialism in Czechoslovakia and the other brotherly countries, and significantly strengthened the western borders of the socialist camp. These objectives are now also being served by the Soviet Army troops stationed in the territory of Hungary, GDR, Poland and CSSR. In cooperation with the national armies of these countries they are fulfilling their international commitment for defense of the interests of world socialism and they constitute an important factor in cooling the aggressive ardor of imperialism.

Historical experience gives wholly persuasive evidence that in fulfilling their mission of defending the achievements of socialism, the Soviet armed forces, as we noted above, are serving as a support for the peoples who are struggling for their national and social freedom and they are furthering the successful development of the national liberation movement and accomplishment of the task of preventing the export of counterrevolution to the liberated countries. This is particularly evidenced by the firm position taken by the Soviet Union in relation to the events in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The decisive actions and help of the countries of socialist concord in this area made it possible to foil the imperialists' attempts to use military force to establish their systems in the Arab countries; the armed forces developed in a number of Arab countries with the help of the socialist countries became the chief instrument for the defense of the revolutionary achievements of their peoples. "Our country," said Comrade L. I. Brezhnev at the 25th CPSU Congress, "helped--and, as the 1973 October war showed, helped in an effective way--to strengthen the military potential of the countries which are resisting the aggressor."¹⁷

Under the conditions in today's world the Soviet armed forces are particularly important in that they serve as a decisive force in the prevention of another world war. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Army in guarding the peace and security of the peoples are the armies of the brotherly countries--the participants in the Warsaw Pact. This organization, a dependable bastion of peace and security in Europe, plays a major role in the struggle for relaxation of international tension. The 25th CPSU Congress affirmed with renewed emphasis that the Warsaw Pact countries will continue in the future to stand for extension of the process of detente and for the triumph of the ideals of peace, security, and economic and social progress for the people.

Thus, the Soviet armed forces, an organ of a state embodying a developed socialist society, now as before are performing an international duty on a highly humanitarian level.

However, despite these obvious facts, the bourgeois ideologists and their accomplices--the opportunists and revisionists of every stripe and particularly the leftist elements--are attempting everywhere to undermine the true objective of the Soviet Army and the armies of the other countries of socialist concord; they are prescribing their aggressive aims and sounding the alarm regarding the threat of "red militarism and Soviet aggression."

The historic path of our army, like that of the other armies of the countries of socialist concord, entails the most convincing unmasking of the scurrilous calumny of the enemies of socialism. The armies of the socialist countries have never been used for the seizure of another's territories and for the enslavement of peoples. On every occasion when the Soviet Army had to make use of its military might it did so only to defend the interests of the working-class people and their revolutionary achievements. And now it is acting in close concert with the armies of the other Warsaw Pact countries to proudly fulfill the great mission assigned to it by history.

The Warsaw Pact countries stand for elimination of military blocs. They have repeatedly declared their readiness to disband the Warsaw Pact organization when the North Atlantic alliance of imperialists is dissolved. As Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said at the October plenum of the CC CPSU, "We will be ready tomorrow to institute measures for disarmament--either on a large and radical scale, or, for a start, even partial disarmament--on a genuinely equitable reciprocal basis. We would have no objection."¹⁸ But while the NATO bloc remains and while the militarist circles are pursuing an arms race, our country and the other Warsaw Pact members will strengthen this military-political alliance. The underlying basis of this alliance, its living spirit and guiding and organizing force is the "indissoluble military alliance of the communist parties of the countries of socialism, the unanimity of their world view, their common goals and their unity of will."¹⁹

The source of the strength and invincibility of the Soviet armed forces is the day-to-day guidance of the Communist Party.

Under the conditions of a developed socialist society the leading role of the Communist Party in the building of communism in general and the strengthening of the armed forces in particular is growing continuously. This is revealed anew in the 25th Party Congress documents and materials which discuss the growing role of our party in guiding the armed forces, a function exercised as an objective law of their development.

The process of uninterrupted growth of the CPSU's leading role in the army and navy stems from a number of circumstances, among which the following should be noted. They are, first, the exacerbation of the peril facing the fortunes of nations from world missile and nuclear war, a war for which the aggressive imperialist circles are continuing to prepare themselves. Under these circumstances the CPSU is tasked with the enormous responsibility for an accurate evaluation of the political and military strategic situation in the world, the taking of timely and decisive measures, the maintenance of peace throughout the world and the curbing of aggression from wherever it may originate. Second, there is the need to implement a correct policy in the development and improvement of all the branches of the armed forces and their organizational forms and in the search for more effective methods of their operations vis-a-vis the development and improvement of military science. Third, there is the impact of scientific-technical progress on the development of military expertise. The latest scientific discoveries are furthering a rapid change in the power alignment of today's armed forces.

This therefore places upon the CPSU the great responsibility of insuring the constant improvement of the armed forces and maintaining them on a level commensurate with the tasks of providing for the defense of the national interests of the people. Fourth, there is the growing importance of the ideological, political, moral and psychological factor in modern war. To achieve victory over a powerful enemy every Soviet fighting man must constitute the strongest possible fusion of moral and political training and military expertise; also, of physical endurance, courage and heroism. And, finally, fifth, there is expansion of the international commitments of the Soviet armed forces and the need to insure the indissoluble unity and cooperation of the armies of the brotherly countries in respect to the collective defense of peace and socialism.

The party leadership--a decisive requirement for the success of military construction and the inculcation of lofty moral, combat, ideological and political qualities in the Soviet fighting men--constitutes an inexhaustible source for the strengthening of the power and combat readiness of the army and navy. "The life-giving source of our strength was, is and will be the communist ideology. The enormous ideological and political work of the party," says L. I. Brezhnev with emphatic conviction, "was a powerful weapon in the time of war. It is now a powerful factor in fulfillment of the vast tasks which face us today."²⁰

FOOTNOTES

1. K. Marx and F. Engels. "Collected Work," Vol 14, p 5.
2. V. I. Lenin. "Complete Collected Works," Vol 12, p 113.
3. "Materials of the 25th CPSU Congress." Moscow, 1976, p 76.
4. V. I. Lenin. "Complete Collected Works," Vol 40 pp 76-77.
5. "Program of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union." Moscow, 1972, pp 100-101.
6. Ibid, p 111.
7. "Materials of the 25th CPSU Congress," p 81.
8. "The Special Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. A Stenographic Report." Moscow, 1939, p 149.
9. "The Law of the USSR on Universal Military Obligation." Moscow, 1967, pp 3-4.
10. "The Materials of the 25th CPSU Congress," pp 76-76.

11. See A. A. Grechko, "The Armed Forces of the Soviet State." Moscow, 1975, p 237.
12. PRAVDA, 1976, 26 October,
13. "The Materials of the 25th CPSU Congress," p 17.
14. Ibid, p 12.
15. Ibid, p 83.
16. "The Program of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union" p 11.
17. "The Materials of the 25th CPSU Congress," pp 13-14.
18. PRAVDA, 1976, 26 October.
19. "The Materials of the 25th CPSU Congress," p 7.
20. "The Thirtieth Anniversary of the Soviet Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Documents and Materials." Moscow, 1975, p 21.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORTS ON PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DEFICIENCIES

But Not That Water

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] This is now Major A. Bedzhanyan entitled his correspondence which appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 12 April 1977. His article addressed the inadequate attention being given by the Naval Engineering Service of the Caspian Flotilla to the repair of housing units.

As reported to the editors by the temporary acting chief of the rear for the Caspian Flotilla, Captain First Rank I. Podkladkin, measures have been taken to speed up the repair of the housing units. Work on the construction of a pumping station, which will provide a normal water supply for housing units on T. Ul'yantsev Street in Baku, will also be completed before October 1977.

Hypnotized by Generous Promises

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] This is how Major I. Zekun entitled his correspondence which appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 15 April. The correspondence was critical of the poor quality of the work done in building the garrison officers' club of the UNR. This construction job was overseen by Lieutenant Colonel I. Mashkovskiy.

Colonel Dedulo has reported to the editors that the criticism was justified. The article was discussed at a meeting of the leadership of the unit and in the political section. Specific steps have been planned for the smooth commissioning of the construction projects and for improving the quality of the construction work. All of the shortcomings that were noted in the newspaper have been eliminated.

Those persons guilty of procrastinating in eliminating the construction shortcomings have been punished administratively.

Removed From the Sports Day

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] This was the title of the critical correspondence which appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 30 March 1977, in which was discussed the poor attention being given to the development of several important military-related kinds of sports in naval schools in Leningrad.

As reported to the editors by the chairman of the sports committee of the Leningrad naval base, Counter Adm I. Kolchin, the correspondence has been studied at a meeting of the sports aktiv of the higher naval institutions of learning and of the base. The newspaper's criticism has been acknowledged as correct. Steps have been planned to improve the sports work. It has been decided to introduce boxing, wrestling and heavy athletics into the sports day of the higher naval institutions of learning in Leningrad for 1978.

The Military Collective and the Newspaper

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] This was the heading of the press review which appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 28 April 1977. Critical comments about the newspapers, VO SLAVU RODINY (Red-Banner Belorussia Military Okrug) and LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA (Red-Banner Transcaucasus Military Okrug), were made in the review.

Col N. Kosarenko, deputy to the editor of VO SLAVU RODINY, has informed KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that the press review has been discussed in the collective of the editorial board. The criticism has been acknowledged to be correct. Specific plans for the sections to more deeply clarify the complex approach to training and educating servicemen, to raise the role of company party and Komsomol organizations in the unity of the military collective have been drawn up in the editorial board, a special meeting and at the party meeting. The newspaper VO SLAVU RODINY has started a column for readers to exchange ideas about the interrelationships between experienced and young servicemen and about the atmosphere in military collectives. A new column has been introduced which is called, "The Collective - Serviceman - Responsibility."

In Col A. Kiryukhin's, the editor of LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA, report it says that the press review, "The Military Collective and the Newspaper," was discussed at a session of the editorial board. The criticism of the newspaper was recognized as justified. The newspaper's work for the years 1976 through 1977 was analyzed at a session of the editorial board. A special plan was developed whereby topics are planned that deal with the basic problems of the unity of military collectives and that take into consideration the requirements of military pedagogy and psychology; and definite time periods for publishing materials were set. Commanders, unit political workers are being recruited to prepare them. A column entitled "Ways of Strengthening the Military Collective" was introduced.

Testing for Soundness

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] This is how Eng Lieut Col L. Kulikov entitled his correspondence which appeared in the newspaper on 11 March 1977. The correspondence discussed the inadequate practical preparedness of some graduates of the Kamyshinka Higher Military Construction Command School. Shortcomings in training young officers in some military construction detachments and the UNR were also noted.

As reported to the editors by the chief of the Engineering Administration for Capital Construction of the USSR Ministry of Defense, General Major of Engineering G. Domanin, the correspondence was examined and discussed by administration leadership, in the construction units and in the higher military construction schools. The command and the political section of the Kamyshinka school have planned steps to improve the training of the cadets.

The chief of the political section of the construction administration, Colonel I. Tolstykh, has informed the editors of steps to improve ideological work among the young officers. Lieut Col M. Vel'ko has been relieved of his position as commander of the military construction detachment and lowered in rank for his rudeness toward his subordinates and for dereliction of duty.

The living conditions of the officers who live in the dormitories are being improved; the sports room has been equipped and the reading room area has been enlarged.

Unwitting Violators

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] Lieut Col (retired) A. Yatskevich gave this title to his letter that was published on 24 April 1977. His letter dealt with the fact that the Penza garrison PX does not offer for sale some military goods. In the editor's commentary on the letter it was pointed out that goods such as parade hats, officers dress shoes and gold braid have become hard to obtain in many other places.

The deputy chief of the main administration for commerce of the USSR Ministry of Defense, General Major of the Quartermaster Service V. Bondarenko, has reported that following the publication of the newspaper a check of the status of commerce in military-related goods in stores of the military personnel trade administration was made. In the commerce administrations of the military okrugs and fleets meetings were held that were devoted to this matter. Steps were taken jointly to meet the purchasers' demands.

Moreover, the reply states that there are interruptions in the trade of service hats, shoes, waist belts, galloons, gold braid, sailors' collars

and certain other goods that have been caused by the inadequate supply of them by many enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Light Industry and the RSFSR Ministry of the Light Industry, as well as by the RSFSR Ministry of the Textile Industry. Thus, last year military commercial organizations did not receive from some suppliers a third of the annual fund of hats and more than half of the allocated soldiers' waist belts. For the 4 months of the current year many enterprises have been lagging in the production of up to 30 percent of the planned volume of shoes, metal galloons and a large amount of trousers. Gold braid for service hats has not been supplied for military commerce, in spite of the fact that the order for manufacturing it was placed on time.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA brings to the attention of the managers of these ministries that they must strictly adhere to their contract obligations. Our readers are waiting for steps to be taken to fully meet the demand for military goods.

Once Again on the "Order for Soccer [Tickets]"

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jun 77 p 3

[Text] This was the title of the letter from Eng Col M. Nasyrov and the commentary on the letter which appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 6 April 1977. The letter discussed the improper practice of assigning season tickets for the SKA (Kiev) soccer team.

As reported to the editor by the deputy chief of the political section of the Kiev higher military aviation engineering school, Eng Col Ye. Stadnik, such facts really were taking place in some subunits. The school's sports committee, it continues in the reply, has been instructed to make preliminary clarification of the actual requirement for season tickets and to make them available to everyone wishing to have them through the okrug sports committee.

Following the publication of the letter and commentary the command and the political section of the school held substantive discussions with the managing faculties, political workers and officers, during which attention was again given to the voluntary nature of obtaining season tickets.

But on Paper It Is 100 Percent

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jun 77 p 3

[Text] This is how Col N. Tikhonenkov, Maj L. Golovnev and Capt G. Lebedev entitled their critical correspondence which appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 1 June. The correspondence addressed the shortcomings in physical training work of students and in particular the issuing of GTO [Ready for Labor and the Defense of the USSR] norms in some schools in Bukhara Oblast. As reported to the editors by the secretary of the Uzbek Bukhara Oblast Party

Committee, Kh. Muminov, the facts, as outlined in the correspondence, are accurate. The matters touched upon by the newspaper were discussed in the propaganda and agitation section of the oblast party committee along with the administrators of the oblast section for peoples' education, the military commissariat and the sports committee. The administrators of the Kaganskiy and Karakul'skiy rayons have received stern warnings for their lack of control over the schools' physical training of students, the organization of issuing GTO norms, and the preparation of youngsters for service in the Soviet Army.

Three Years of Procrastination

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] Thus was Capt I. Dikhtyar's correspondence entitled which appeared in the newspaper on 13 May. Shortcomings in repairing cadets' barracks at one of the military schools in the Prikarpatskiy military okrug were criticized in the correspondence.

As reported to the editors by the deputy commander of troops of Prikarpatskiy military okrug for the construction and quartering of troops, Eng Col N. Gryaznov, measures are being taken to speed up the repair of the building. Along with this the need arose to replan the facilities and to replace wooden constructions with reinforced concrete ones (which calls for additional money and materials). The work will be done in two stages. The first stage is already completed. The repair work's completion is planned for next year.

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COMBAT TRAINING UNDER COMPLICATED CONDITIONS

Introduction

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 6, Jun 77 signed to press 23 May 77 pp 8-9

[Unattributed article: "Combat Training Under Complicated Conditions"]

[Text] In modern combat the ability of soldiers, sailors, and commanders to operate effectively in the most complicated situation is acquiring ever greater significance. The main task of every Soviet soldier is to preserve combat readiness and gain victory under such conditions. Successful accomplishment of this task depends upon each soldier's knowledge of the combat properties of a nuclear and chemical weapon, incendiary substances, and methods to protect against them, ability to conduct radiation and chemical reconnaissance, employ protective properties of the terrain and equipment, and build engineer structures.

A firm knowledge of how to warn about radiation and chemical contamination and the ability to operate by signals in a varied situation are of great significance.

The specific conditions of the night exert a considerable influence on the destructive effect of a nuclear and a chemical weapon. Thus, at night the luminous radiation of a nuclear burst is more powerful. Smokescreens created by special vehicles and instruments, smoke pots, artillery, or aviation ammunition can be employed to degrade it. Sergeants, petty officers, warrant officers [praporshchiki i michmani], and officers must place more attention during tactical exercises on training subordinates to skillfully carry out their responsibilities at rocket launch installations and when firing from their gun, tank, and other types of weapons during the employment of smoke-screens.

Questions on defense against weapons of mass destruction must be worked out at each tactical exercise in full volume taking into account the combat missions, time, rates of troop movement, and weather and terrain conditions.

Successful execution of missions under complicated conditions of the situation is greatly facilitated by socialist competition at tactical, tactical-drill,

and tactical-special lessons where subordinates should be taught to skillfully overcome obstacles and struggle against the fire, tanks, and other combat resources of a probable enemy. The result will be an increased load on the trainees, improvement in their psychological tempering, they will be indoctrinated with a conviction and ability to oppose the modern weapon and conduct combat with an enemy, vanquishing him under the most difficult conditions.

The effectiveness and quality of subunit [podrazdeleniye] combat training greatly depend upon sergeants, petty officers, and warrant officers, on their activeness in socialist competition, upon their strict fulfillment of the pledges made in honor of the 60th anniversary of Great October.

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CBR Platoon Reconnaissance in a Contaminated Area

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 6, Jun 77 signed to press 23 May 77 pp 8-9

[Article by Sergeant M. Abayev, commander of a chemical reconnaissance squad: "Reconnaissance of a Contaminated Zone"]

[Text] "The enemy made a low-yield 'nuclear' strike and conducted artillery shelling using chemical ammunition against first-echelon advancing subunits." Such a situation was set up at a tactical exercise where our radiation and chemical reconnaissance (RKhR) platoon was tasked with determining the degree of contamination of column routes for the rapid and safe movement of second-echelon main forces.

Each squad was tasked to move along the appointed route ahead of the main forces and establish the region in which the enemy employed "nuclear" and "chemical" weapons, the level of radiation, and degree of its contamination. Also, we were faced with designating a by-pass route and determining the possibility and direction of spread of OV [toxic chemical agent] vapors and aerosols. The success of the offensive greatly depended upon the speed and accuracy of our mission accomplishment.

Every minute was valuable. I ordered that individual protective equipment and instruments be checked and made ready since we were faced with operating detached from the main forces.

The technical examination of the BRDM and the instruments meant placing special attention on the completeness of the equipment set, integrity of feed sources and indicators, availability of devices to enhance vehicle passability, and spare fuel. I then issued dosimeters to my subordinates for the entire period of operations to determine and monitor radiation doses they received.

When the chemical reconnaissance vehicle was ready to move out, I assigned the combat mission to the squad. In it I pointed out information about the "enemy," the radiation and chemical situation, the route, the start line and point up to which the reconnaissance would be conducted, periodicity of instrument operation, reported the levels of radiation to designate on the terrain, warning signals, and reconnaissance start and stop time.

Aboard the vehicle, we placed our individual protective equipment in the "stand-by" mode. Private N. Voronchikhin, the driver, headed the BRDM in the right direction and at maximum possible speed drove the vehicle along the route. During the approach to the start line, the troops donned their combined-arms protective suits and turned on the GSP-11 automatic gas detectors. They used the DP-5A, very sensitive and permitting more rapid detection of ionizing radiation, to determine the forward border of the radioactive contamination zones (ZRZ).

And speed solved a great deal. We measured levels of radiation and transmitted this data on the march from prominent landmarks or visible reference points every 2-3 km in order to maintain a high rate of movement as well as decrease the number and length of stops. We only stopped for automatic placement of pointers and restriction signs in areas where the moderate, strong, and dangerous radiation zone boundaries were located. We operated without stopping the BRDM in those areas where the "radiation" level was maximum.

Our work was significantly complicated in terrain contaminated by "toxic chemical agents." This is because the squad's soldiers had to leave the BRDM to determine "OV" in the atmosphere. But, when the vehicle moves, liquid drops of the agent settle with the dust onto the vehicle body. This means that the "OV" can get inside the vehicle when the crew gets back inside, in spite of preventive measures being taken.

That is why as far back as the drills I ingrained in my subordinates the skill of rapidly and accurately detecting the presence of "OV" in the air using the PPKhR [semiautomatic chemical surveying instrument] or VPKhR [army chemical surveying instrument] directly from the vehicle. Training chemical reconnaissance troops in such a manner permitted qualitatively working out combat norms. And this is especially important at exercises. Privat N. Koporushkin operated confidently under complicated conditions. He skillfully stuck the end of the tube via which the air passes to the detector to the windward side outside the cab. We determined the accurate wind direction at ground level using a cloth tape attached to the antenna.

This allowed us to save time which the troops in the squad used for observation and monitoring of the surrounding terrain for the purpose of detecting "OV" on the ground, vegetation, and local objects. I soon noted that to the right of the road the green meadow grass "was covered" with greyish-brown spots all the way down to Golubaya Creek. I ordered that the water and soil be tested from the vehicle, using the long scoop and water collector.

We were able to establish through our check that the "enemy" employed blistering agents. Having determined the dimensions of the contaminated sector, we marked it off with restriction signs and put up pointers showing the direction of by-passes. I then entered the results of the chemical reconnaissance on my map and reported the data to the platoon commander.

The squad successfully coped with the assigned mission, all operations were carried out at a fast pace, resultant data was complete and of high confidence,

and it reached the second-echelon subunits without delay. This allowed them to engage in combat in a timely manner and develop the success of the offensive.

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Motorized Infantry Small-Unit Night Operations

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 6, Jun 77 signed to press 23 May 77 pp 10-11

[Article by Sr Lt L. Pivovarov: "The Squad Attacks At Night"]

[Text] Night exerts material influence on the combat operations of a sub-unit. On the offensive it facilitates surprise and provides commanders and soldiers with expansive possibilities for displaying initiative, ingenuity, and military cleverness. Under the cover of night a subunit can approach the enemy undetected, suddenly attack, and destroy him. Along with this, observation and orientation, maintenance of control, and coordination are complicated at night. Therefore, the organization and conduct of an attack at night is a complicated mission. Only well-trained troops headed by an innovative and ingenious commander can handle it.

The order for a night attack is issued as a rule during the day. Thus, Sergeant V. Smirnov received it at 1600 hours at a company exercise. The 1st Motorized Rifle Platoon [msv] was tasked from a position of direct contact with the "enemy" to go over to the offensive, destroy a group of infantry on the southern slopes of Ploskaya Hill, and consolidate its position. The 2d Squad was designated as the lead. The 1st Squad attacked from the right, the 3rd Squad from the left.

Prior to assigning combat missions to subordinates, the squad commander, along with measures taken to prepare for a day attack, explained in detail the procedure for designating a path in friendly and enemy minefields, the sequence of the squad's movement through them, warning signs, control signals, and target designation. He designated the soldier who would take the point.

Sergeant Smirnov then assigned combat missions.

/Reference points/ [boldface in original]: first -- two trees, second -- ruins, third -- burial mound on the hill.

The "enemy" is defending on the southern slopes of Ploskaya Hill. Firing means detected: reference point 1, to the left 0-20 -- machinegun; reference point 2, proximity 50 -- infantry group in a trench; reference point 3, to the left 0-60 -- recoilless gun. Minefields are located forward of the main line of resistance.

The 1st msv from the position it occupies destroys the enemy on Ploskaya Hill with a night attack and takes its northern slopes, subsequently advancing towards the barn (bearing 10°).

The 2d Squad is the lead. From the initial position of the "trench" it attacks and destroys an "enemy" infantry group in front of the burial mound

(south of the burial mound) and takes the northern slopes of the hill, subsequently advancing towards the barn (bearing 10°).

From the right the 1st Squad destroys the "enemy" machinegun to the left of the ruins and from the left the 3rd Squad takes out the recoilless gun on the western slopes of Ploskaya Hill.

Then the squad commander assigned a mission to each of his subordinates, informed them of the signals, and designated a deputy. He made sure here that the soldiers fully assimilated not only their own mission but that of the squad and platoon as well, that they knew the sequence of movement to the jumping off point and overcoming the minefields. He insured that they knew how to react should the "enemy" illuminate the terrain, open fire on them, and how to maintain coordination with their neighbors and their own armored personnel carrier [APC]. Sergeant Smirnov took pains to eliminate any possibility of them getting hit by their own fire by again reminding his subordinates about the necessity during the attack to strictly maintain the assigned axis and established intervals, skillfully orient themselves in the dark, and carefully fire and throw their grenades.

The squad commander then checked on how the soldiers had studied the terrain, memorized local objects suitable for orientation when moving on the attack, and readied their weapons.

The approach to the "enemy" main line of resistance began at 2345 hrs. At first, Sergeant Smirnov moved at the head of the squad column, using the advantageous terrain conditions to the maximum. He clearly remembered that the subunits of the main capitalist armies now have numerous night vision devices and radars. They make it possible to carefully monitor all approaches to the defense and can easily detect even an individual soldier. For that reason, the sergeant strove to employ every fold of terrain in order to remain undetected.

The squad commander stressed that the soldiers observe sound and light camouflage. The soldiers moved soundlessly and strove not to make sudden movements or rattle their weapons and equipment. After the soldiers were deployed in a skirmish line, the point was in the center of the squad combat formation. He moved along next to the commander, maintaining the axis by the tops of the two trees.

The attack was undertaken without fire preparation since the company was assigned an individual mission whose successful execution greatly depended upon the surprise of the operations. This variant makes it possible to win a victory not only over equal but even over a superior enemy, as numerous examples from the Great Patriotic War prove. Thus, on the night of 25 September 1944, a squad commanded by Sergeant V. Kharitonov operated ahead of our troops' main line of resistance. The squad was ordered to determine the trace of the Hitlerites' trenches and the presence and type of obstacles. Listening keenly, the troops slowly moved forward. Suddenly a flare rose into the air and Sergeant Kharitonov detected the enemy trench. This was the

position of the combat security. The decision was made on the spot -- under the cover of darkness attack the Hitlerites and occupy the trench.

Diligently employing the terrain, the soldiers noiselessly flanked the fascists and ended up behind them. At their commander's signal, they erupted into the trench. At first they only used bayonets and gun butts. Then one Hitlerite fired and this startled the rest. Flares rose into the air and wild firing ensued. The actions of these brave soldiers was so sudden and audacious that at first the enemy could not understand where the danger was coming from. They concentrated all their attention on the frontal approaches to the trench. The Soviet soldiers required only several minutes to occupy the security position and kill more than 30 soldiers and officers. The entire platoon occupied the trench by morning.

. . . During the approach Sergeant Smirnov placed special attention on the coordination of his subordinates' actions. The soldiers strove not to become separated and occupied their place in the squad combat formation after overcoming the obstacles. They were unsuccessful in reaching the first trench undetected. The "enemy" detected the advancing troops and opened fire on them. However, it was too late. At Sergeant Smirnov's command, the soldiers threw grenades at the "enemy" from a range of 25-30 meters and attacked, shouting "Hurrah" as they went. The squad commander monitored to see if the soldiers, who had breached the forward edge and jumped over the first trench, fired their weapons not only ahead of them, but to the sides as well. One must not forget this since enemy soldiers still alive can destroy the attackers by shooting them in the back.

In our example, the squad was detected when it was already located in front of the "enemy" main line of resistance. But, this can happen earlier as well. In this instance, the soldiers without halting accelerate their movement and leap into the first trench. They must not stop, lie down, or look for cover at the moment of attack. To drop flat means to not carry out the mission.

The soldiers opened up with two-three rounds of return fire upon their sergeant's command. The first tracer showed that the aiming was correct and the second or third round killed the "enemy." They sighted in on muzzle flashes, target silhouettes, and trench breastworks, using the sky as a background and the light from flares.

An illumination post consisting of two persons was assigned in the squad. And although it operated on signals from the platoon commander, the sergeant monitored to see if the soldiers kept the advancing squad in darkness while illuminating the terrain.

It is known that darkness impacts negatively on a soldiers' psychology. Local objects somehow seem to them to be unusual, bushes look like a group of enemy soldiers, small hillocks look like tanks or APC's, etc. Here, a lot depends upon the squad commander. In the same skirmish line with his subordinates, he constantly sets the example for them and motivates them.

Sergeant Smirnov attached great significance to this and strove to see that his subordinates feel brave and confident.

Having destroyed the personnel and firing means at the forward edge, the squad steadfastly moved forward. This disorganized the "enemy" and gave him no chance to consolidate his position, prepare a fire system, and hold up those advancing. Sergeant Smirnov watched to see if the squad maintained its place in the platoon combat formation and did not deviate from the assigned axis. This is especially important in night combat since the slightest change in the axis of movement can lead to mixing of combat formations or to losses from the fire of your own weapons.

The squad attacked without a tank to achieve the concealment and surprise of the operations.

It should be noted that in the darkness the role of the squad commander in fire direction increases significantly. To a greater degree than during the day, he must make independent decisions on destruction of enemy firing means and personnel. During the night lesson Sergeant Smirnov successfully solved the problems which arose and skillfully employed not only the weapons of those attacking with him but the APC machinegun as well.

Good night training is an integral part of the combat training of all subunits.

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Artillery Small-Unit Operations in Contaminated Area

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 6, Jun 77 signed to press 23 May 77 pp 11-12

[Article by Gds Jr Sgt V. Boldyrikhin: "Topographers Support Firing"]

[Text] Our artillery subunit is at a tactical exercise. The column is on the march.

Then near the woods the traffic regulator waved us to the right with his red flag and the commander's jeep at the column's head braked. It then turned in the direction indicated. The subunit column drove deeper into a pine grove and halted there to bivouac.

But we got no rest. We had only just checked the gear when Guards Senior Lieutenant M. Bogdanov, the commander of the headquarters platoon, called me over.

The subunit was faced with moving forward several dozen kilometers in a few hours and from the march occupying positions in an unprepared region. The commander decided to dispatch a reconnaissance group, of which our squad was a part, to reconnoiter an approach route to the assigned region, survey the battery positions, battalion combined observation (SND) posts, and observation posts, and monitor the "enemy," having at the same time insured rapid and concealed deployment and the full combat readiness of the subunits by the appointed time.

Having sized up the mission, I oriented squad personnel to the situation and ordered that the gear be turned on. The reconnaissance group soon headed out along the appointed route. As we approached the battalion deployment area a command was received from Guards Senior Lieutenant Bogdanov:

"There is a 'contaminated' sector of terrain ahead. Place individual protective gear on stand-by."

Our main assignment as topographers is to carefully provide the required data. Our operations depend upon a situation involving a variety of instruments such as a theodolite, compass, gyrocompass, navigational gear, monitoring a multitude of scales, taking measurements from them, using optics, inputting data into instruments, and using a map. It is not easy to do this now in such heat. The sweat runs off us in streams even when we are not using gas masks and other protective gear. Therefore, I ordered that gas mask eyepieces be smeared using a special pencil so they would not steam up.

Carefully cleaning the glass with a clean cloth, we inscribe five or six streaks in the form of a network, breathe on the glass, and smoothly spread the lubricant with a finger until the glass becomes clear. Only Guards Private S. Oparenyuk, the driver, is exempt from doing this. He as usual carefully watches the road and confidently drives the vehicle. Guards Private A. Stepanov, the senior radio telegrapher, prepares the driver's gas mask while Guards Private S. Koretskiy takes care of his cape, boots, and gloves.

And then the signs: "Sector contaminated by toxic chemical agents." I give the command "Gas!" and everyone quickly dons gas masks. Oparenyuk halts the vehicle momentarily to execute the command and moves out again.

We arrive at the designated area -- an enormous hilly sandy field covered with rare bushes such as dog-rose and wilted shore willows (the river is only 2 kms away). I order the driver to stop at the kilometer stone which is the initial point of the survey route.

"Put on full cape, boots, and gloves!" With this command personnel leave the vehicle and put on their individual protective gear.

There is insufficient time to carry out the mission. I decide to survey the artillery batteries' combat formation and battalion combined observation posts using the map. I divide the section into two groups. The first consists of Guards Junior Sergeant A. Skokshin (senior topographer), Guards Private S. Koretskiy (topographer), and Guards Private A. Stepanov (computer specialist and senior radio telegrapher). I assign them the mission to determine the grid azimuth of the bearing to the aiming point using the gyrocompass.

I task topographer Guards Junior Sergeant S. Getman and driver S. Oparenyuk to line up the instrument on the place mark, using the results of the first group's measurements.

I go about reconnoitering the terrain. It is difficult to work with a map when you are wearing protective gloves. It is always slipping out of your hands but I gradually accustom myself to this discomfort. Orienting myself and comparing the map with the terrain, I search for prominent landmarks and reference points for plotting traverses to surveyed points. I strive to fulfill all responsibilities diligently and quickly.

I am soon convinced that the high hills covered with bushes will in a majority of instances preclude straight-line visibility between the traverse points. In addition, the survey points turned out to be difficult to reach. Open routes have to be used to determine their coordinates. In accordance with this decision, I planned for the projected route of the traverses to skirt natural obstacles. And even though the length of each traverse here was significantly increased, selection of such routes however insured completion of the mission within the suspense established by the commander.

When the instrument was oriented, I made all the notes in the field log and gave the command to move along the first route. The members of the crew each made measurements several times and carefully monitored all operations. All specialists finished in the normative time.

The soldiers operated in a coordinated manner at this exercise. They carried out every mission on time. This was facilitated to a great degree by integrated drills at which the topographers solved training problems. They also studied how to use a compass to measure the distance to a stadia rod and local objects, a compass traverse grid azimuth, solve problems on determining point coordinates, and operate an NIKh [instrumental traverse nomogram].

For our drills we always select a sector of terrain with complicated relief and with objects useful as prominent landmarks but difficult to compare using a terrain map. This element of combat training is in my view of especially important significance to insure accurate orientation of instruments on the terrain and the reliability of the survey of the subunits' combat formation.

All the members of our squad are topographers second and third class, while Private Oparenyuk is a driver-operator second class. Thanks to his steadfastness and great help, every one of us can drive the vehicle. Our squad is 100 percent Komsomol members. Two, Aleksandr Skokshin and I, are members of the battalion VLKSM bureau, Sergey Koretskiy is a battery Komsomol group organizer, and Sergey Oparenyuk is editor of the combat flyer. We all compete with each other for the best training indicators with special persistence. Not a single one of us wants to miss being first and each strives to fulfill pledges at the "excellent" level.

This also facilitates the maintenance of strong friendship in the collective and affects mutual training. Take Guards Junior Sergeant Semen Getman, for example. He is an experienced specialist, a topographer second class. He is competing with Guards Junior Sergeant Skokshin relatively recently arrived from a training subunit. At first, Skokshin had no firm skills in working

with the instruments, with the gyrocompass giving him the most problem even though he knew its structure and operating principles fairly well.

Getman set about helping his comrade. During the hours of independent study, he showed Skokshin how to turn on the gyrocompass, rapidly make calculations from three points, determine the magnetic azimuth from them, input corrections to the instrument, and find the true azimuth. Now Skokshin operates the gyrocompass well and is successfully passing the tests for specialist second class. We are now carrying on an intense struggle for first place among topographer subunits. And every one of us has made increased socialist pledges in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

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Motorized Infantry Assault Following a Nuclear Strike

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 6, Jun 77 signed to press 23 May 77 pp 20-21

[Article by WO N. Mineyev: "Following a Nuclear Strike"]

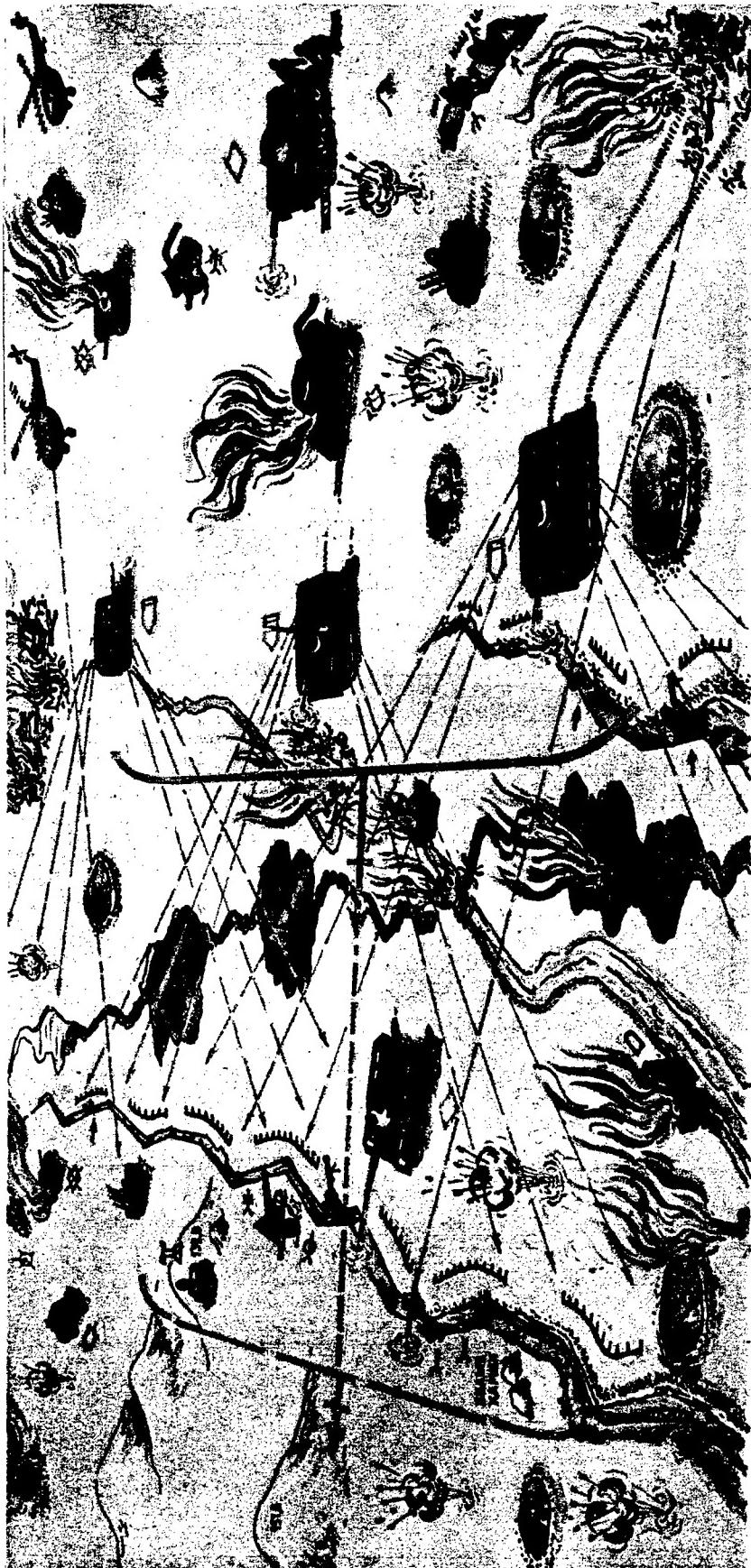
[Text] A motorized infantry subunit following tanks advanced along a sector subjected to a "nuclear missile strike." The infantry combat vehicles [BMP] moved at increased intervals, requiring from the crews good orientation on terrain abounding with many fires and masterful assimilation of combat equipment.

Warrant Officer A. Stupakov commanded one of the platoons. His subunit was given the mission as part of a company to advance towards (see the diagram) the burial mound, destroyed bridge, and Hill 151.6 and in coordination with other platoons destroy "enemy" personnel and fire means in the strong point and reach the line white stones -- Hill 139.8. Warrant Officer Stupakov guided the platoon as ordered by the company commander in the direction of Hill 156.1, which was visible in the distance through the smoke from the fires. Via the TPU [intercom] he ordered the driver-mechanic to register on that basic reference point using the directional gyro. This was necessary in order to maintain the proper axis when travelling in an area where there are fires, smoke, all sorts of ruins, and other unforeseen obstacles.

Corporal V. Kosolapov, the driver-mechanic, turned on the directional gyro and turned the vehicle exactly towards the hill. He then set the zero graduation of the scale opposite the corresponding mark on the instrument. Now there was no need to worry about losing direction when by-passing obstacles and fires. After making a maneuver, the driver-mechanic had to position the vehicle so that the digit "0" occupied the corresponding position as at the initial setting.

The motorized infantry subunit's approach to the forward edge's strong point was made at high speed. The high tactical-technical qualities of the BMP and excellent training of the personnel served as a reliable condition for insuring an audacious maneuver.

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Combat Training Under Complicated Conditions

Key to illustration:

Conventional signs

- ◇ Tank
- BMP
- ⤵ Antitank gun
- ⤷ Machinegun
- ⤸ Grenade launcher
- ⤹ Automatic rifle
- ⤻ Recoilless gun
- ⤾ Rocket launcher
- ⤿ PTURS [antitank guided missile]
- Vehicle
- ⤴ Destroyed bridge
- ⤵ Advancing subunit
- ⤶ Radar station

Examining the field of battle through the observation device, the platoon commander noted an antitank rocket launcher in a trench. It primarily threatened the tank advancing forward and firing at an armored target.

"With the machinegun, 31-00, rocket launcher, fire from the move!" Warrant Officer Stupakov ordered via the TPU. Private I. Ryabonov, the gunner-operator, rapidly laid the gun on the target and pressed the electric firing gear button. A short machinegun burst rang out. The crimson trace of the shell made a sloping arc and the overshoot was evident.

This forced the warrant officer as well as the gunner-operator to recall the special features of gunnery under smokey conditions. Ranges to reference points and local objects seem greater than they really are due to the restricted visibility of their dimensions. Decreasing the sight setting, the soldier accurately destroyed the dangerous target with the second round.

Other squads fired from machinegun and automatic weapons through the firing ports on the left and right sides of the vehicles. The resistance of the "enemy" defending from the first echelon strong points was insignificant and the motorized infantry continued to advance at a rapid rate. Resistance increased as we penetrated into the depth of the defense.

"Step up your observation!" Stupakov ordered via radio just as his vehicle, by-passing a fire, came upon a grenade launcher. The gunner-operator opened fire on it with the machinegun. Through the tongues of flame from a burning bush squad commander Sergeant S. Kleshchев noted a vehicle mounting a recoilless gun moving along the road beyond the Belaya River towards the destroyed bridge. Conditions were unfavorable for firing. The problem was that the target shimmered in the haze from a fire. Sergeant Kleshchев ordered the driver-mechanic to turn sharply to the right and thus move away from the fire barrier.

"With the machinegun, straight ahead, vehicle-mounted recoilless gun, with a short halt, fire!" the sergeant commanded. The gunner-operator coarsely sighted in on the target and gave the command "Short halt!"

Private Smirnov stopped the vehicle smoothly, without any "rocking." A long machinegun burst rang out and the fiery trace of the shells passed through the center of the target.

Sergeant N. Belozerov, BMP crew commander, operated skillfully on the platoon's right flank. He came to the aid of the crew of a "damaged" tank in a timely manner. The crew members were repairing the damaged tank under the cover of smoke.

"Fragmentation, 30-00, antitank gun, with a short halt, fire!" Belozerov ordered Private N. Kolobov, the gunner-operator. The target was destroyed.

The Belaya River blocked the path of the advancing force. It is small and under normal conditions could have been forded anywhere. However, as a result

of the "nuclear burst" several flooded zones were created. Tanks were forced to select locations suitable for an assault crossing. The BMP did not change the axis of attack and swam across the flooded zones, continuing to fire on targets as they appeared.

At that moment the "enemy" attacked with tanks and infantry. The motorized infantry was not taken aback. Rapidly taking cover, they greeted the attackers with a storm of fire.

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MATERIAL FOR USSR AIR FLEET DAY TALKS, REPORTS

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[Article: "Mighty Wings of the Soviet Fatherland"]

[Excerpts] Filled with energy and creative forces, the Country of Soviets is moving toward the sixtieth anniversary of the Great October. In a situation of general political enthusiasm and solidarity around the Leninist Communist Party, the Soviet people are working successfully on the accomplishment of the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the plans of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, ensuring a further growth in the economic and defensive might of the socialist homeland.

The military aviators, just as all personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces, perceived with great inspiration and patriotic enthusiasm the decisions of the May (1977) plenum of the party's Central Committee and the propositions and conclusions of the report by the General Secretary of the Central Committee CPSU, Chairman of the Constitution Commission, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, "On the draft Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." Unanimously approving the draft Constitution of the USSR and the domestic and foreign policy of the Communist Party and ardently supporting the election of Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR, they are striving to accomplish with honor the requirements imposed on the Armed Forces under contemporary conditions by the party and the people. In greeting the national holiday, USSR Air Fleet Day, the winged guardians of the Fatherland are persistently improving their combat skill, successfully mastering complex contemporary aviation equipment and weapons, are constantly maintaining high vigilance and combat readiness, and are striving to mark the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution with worthy soldierly deeds.

In the postwar years the Soviet people demonstrated mass labor heroism in restoring cities and villages, industrial enterprises, and transportation which were destroyed by the war. The appearance of our country changed unrecognizably in a historically short period, its economy was strengthened even more, science and culture received further development, and the well-being of the Soviet people was improved. Under the leadership of the CPSU a developed

socialist society was built on whose base a new historic community of people--the Soviet people--was formed.

The accomplishment of grandiose plans for the building of socialism and communism is unthinkable without the preservation and strengthening of peace and the creation of favorable foreign-policy conditions. The tireless struggle of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and of all peace-loving, democratic forces led to important positive shifts in the planet's political climate.

At the same time, our party sees the entire complexity and contradictory nature of the process of relaxing international tension and considers the fierceness of the struggle with imperialist reaction. There still are influential forces in the world which do not want truly to give up the "cold war," are whipping up the arms race, and are organizing ideological sabotage and slanderous anti-Soviet, anticomunist campaigns against the USSR and other socialist countries.

In the difficult contemporary international situation the Communist Party and the Soviet government are displaying constant concern for the security of the Soviet state and its allies. "No one should have any doubts," said Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in the summary report of the Central Committee CPSU to the 25th Party Congress, "that our party will do everything so that henceforth, too, the glorious Armed Forces of the Soviet Union will have all necessary means for the accomplishment of their responsible mission--to be the guardian of the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and the bulwark of universal peace."

Thanks to the unremitting attention of the Communist Party and the Soviet government and the selfless efforts of workers, technicians, engineers, scientists, designers, and all personnel of the aircraft industry the Air Fleet of the Country of Soviets has contemporary airplanes and helicopters. The combat capabilities of military aviation have increased greatly. Its basis is made up of supersonic missile-carrying jet aircraft possessing powerful bomb, missile, and cannon armament and contemporary sighting-navigation and electronic equipment. The crews on such airplanes are able to operate successfully under adverse weather conditions day and night, at any altitudes, and to cover tremendous distances. The firepower of our airplanes and helicopters has grown immeasurably.

Long-range aviation includes missile-carrying airplanes which can cover great distances and launch powerful strikes against ground and sea targets without entering the enemy's air defense zone. Tactical aviation is armed with all-weather supersonic fighters, fighter-bombers, bombers, and reconnaissance aircraft which are capable of accomplishing a broad range of the most difficult combat missions. Military-transport aviation possesses considerable combat capabilities. Powerful giant aerial ships with large radii of operation and heretofore unprecedented load permit the assault landing by parachute and air-landing methods not only of personnel, but also various combat equipment. The fighter aviation of the National Air Defense Forces, Naval Aviation, and other air arms are equipped with contemporary missile weapons.

The aviation of the National Air Defense Forces is armed with supersonic all-weather interceptors with powerful missile weapons which are able to intercept and destroy enemy aircraft and cruise missiles within a broad range of altitudes, under any weather conditions, and at any time of day.

Naval supersonic missile carriers equipped with long-range missiles are able to launch crushing strikes against ship forces, bases, and enemy coastal objectives. The airplanes of antisubmarine warfare aviation possess great technical capabilities for the rapid detection of hostile submarines and their destruction.

The basis of Soviet aviation's combat power is comprised not only of first-class equipment which embodies the achievements of contemporary science, but also and primarily of people who master it to perfection and are boundlessly devoted to the Communist Party and the Soviet homeland. At present remarkable cadres of pilots, navigators, engineers, technicians, and other aviation specialists have been raised. They are persistently improving their military skill and are skillfully converting to a crushing force what has been placed in the combat aircraft by Soviet scientific-design thought and the labor of the aviation builders.

Now, creative initiative directed toward the successful realization of the decisions of the 25th Party Congress and a worthy greeting for the 60th anniversary of the Great October is welling up as a mighty spring in the air large units and units just as in all the Armed Forces of the USSR.

In honor of the important anniversary, socialist competition has been widely initiated in the Air Force on the initiative of the Guards Air Red Banner Order of Lenin, Twice Red Banner, Order of Kutuzov Regiment imeni 50th Anniversary of the USSR as well as in the other services of the Armed Forces for a high level of combat readiness, further improvement of aerial training, the skillful mastery of new aviation equipment and weapons, their care, the quality accomplishment of missions in combat and political training, and exemplary military order. Ardently supporting the patriotic initiative of the initiators, the personnel of the air units and subunits are struggling for the unconditional realization of their obligations. The communists and Komsomols are in the vanguard. The ranks of first-class sniper pilots, sniper navigators, and experts of combat and political training are growing thanks to their efforts. Many of our aerial aces have shown themselves to be highly qualified test pilots and test navigators.

The sons of frontline fighters, loyal to the heroic traditions born in battles with the enemies of our country, are now serving under battle standards covered with the glory of the war years. They passionately love the Motherland, are boundlessly devoted to the Communist Party, and are ready to strengthen the might of the socialist Fatherland selflessly, sparing no strength.

The attainment of successes in combat and political training and the accomplishment of socialist obligations by the personnel are furthered by purposeful party-political work conducted by commanders, political organs, and party organizations. Now, in the air units and subunits the majority of the political officers are highly qualified pilots and navigators. Good flight training

permits them always to delve deeply into the course and organization of the training of the aviators and skillfully accomplish the tasks of their ideological-political, military, and moral upbringing.

The Central Committee CPSU and the Soviet government value the aviators' labor highly. Many aviators have been awarded the titles of honored military pilot of the USSR and honored military navigator of the USSR for special services in mastering aviation equipment, in the training and indoctrination of flight personnel, and for many years of work. Many servicemen have been awarded orders and medals.

Soviet aviation is the cradle of astronautics. Many astronaut-pilots have emerged from among the military aviators. Contemporary astronautics are a new direction in technical progress and a new victory of human intelligence. The establishment and development of astronautics are closely linked with the improvement of airplane and rocket technology. The achievements of Soviet astronautics have received worldwide recognition and serve as undisputed proof of the high level of Soviet science and technology and the might of socialism's creative forces.

The workers of the Orders of Lenin and the October Revolution Civil Aviation are greeting USSR Air Fleet Day in a worthy manner. Thanks to the unremitting concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet government concerning the development and improvement of aviation and the heroic labor of our people, Aeroflot has been converted into a highly developed, multipurpose branch of the Soviet national economy. From the first airplanes which flew with the speed of the automobile to contemporary jet airliners, from the first 420-kilometer regular Moscow-Nizhny Novgorod airline to flights to more than 3,500 cities and populated places over routes which stretch for more than 800,000 kilometers--this is the path covered by Soviet civil aviation. One hundred million passengers per year--Aeroflot was the first of the world's airline companies to achieve this goal.

Our international ties are developing. By 1980, our airplanes will be received in the airports of 90 countries. The total volume of international shipments of the Ministry of Civil Aviation will increase almost 1.5-fold.

New aerial ships in the Aeroflot lines--this is the basic trend in the development of our civil aviation in the immediate future. Flight tests of a wide-fuselage 350-passenger jet airplane (airbus), the IL-86, have begun. The YaK-42 is in series production. This aircraft, which takes 120 passengers on board, can operate on local lines from unimproved airfields. The IL-76 cargo giant will become one of the basic means for air transportation in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. Aeroflot's Main Computer Center is being developed. Operating air terminal complexes are being rebuilt and new ones are being erected in which maximum comfort for the passengers is envisaged.

Thousands of highly qualified specialists are working in Aeroflot, among which more than 200 are Heroes of the Soviet Union and Heroes of Socialist labor.

More than 300 are honored pilots of the USSR and honored navigators of the USSR and there are many former frontline fighters.

V. I. Lenin noted that concern for the defense of the socialist Fatherland must be a national matter. In the accomplishment of this task, a special place belongs to the All-Union Order of Lenin, Red Banner Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Air Force, and Navy (DOSAAF USSR) which celebrated 50 years on 23 January 1977. DOSAAF now counts 330,000 primary organizations in the country. They are conducting active military-patriotic and mass-defense work everywhere. In schools, study groups, and clubs of the defense society thousands of young boys and girls are mastering aviation knowledge and the technique of piloting airplanes and helicopters.

The successes in the development of our Soviet Air Fleet are the result of the daily activity of the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. The main source of the might of the Soviet State and its Armed Forces is in the leadership of the party.

The armies of the fraternal socialist countries are standing guard over the peace in the same formation with the men of the Soviet Armed Forces. The strongest combat collaboration of the armies of the fraternal countries is the reliable guarantee of the indestructibility of their borders and the inviolability of the achievements of socialism.

In marking the holiday of the USSR Air Fleet, each military aviator is imbued even more deeply with a feeling of personal responsibility for the accomplishment of the patriotic and international duty of the armed defender of the country of victorious socialism. The true sons of the people, the aviators, just as all the men of our Armed Forces, are vigilantly standing guard over the achievements of October and are always ready to step forth on the first call of the party and the order of the Motherland to defend the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the entire socialist commonwealth.

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